

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 1285

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, YO

SUBJECT: ALLIANCE CONSULTATIONS IN THE NATO POLITICAL COMMITTEE

REF: A. STATE 045174 B. USNATO 1029

SUMMARY: ON MARCH 4, POLADS DISCUSSED A) WHETHER POLITICAL COMMITTEE SHOULD UNDERTAKE A STUDY OF COMMUNIST BALKANS, OR B) WHETHER IT MIGHT BE BETTER TO CONCENTRATE ON A MORE SPECIFIC SUBJECT SUCH AS "DEVELOPMENTS IN YUGOSLAVIA AND ITS NEIGHBORING COMMUNIST STATES." DISCUSSION REVEALED GENERAL LACK OF ENTHUSIASM FOR THE MORE GENERAL BALKAN STUDY. COMMITTEE EVENTUALLY DECIDED TO AWAIT CONTRIBUTIONS ON THE MORE SPECIFIC YUGOSLAV TOPIC AND THEN CONSIDER WHETHER THOSE CONTRIBUTIONS OFFER BASIS FOR A FORMAL STUDY OR WHETHER THEY SHOULD BE HANDLED AS ROUTINE EXCHANGES OF POLITICAL ASSESSMENTS. END SUMMARY.

1. ON QUESTION OF BALKAN STUDY, DANISH, NORWEGIAN, BELGIAN, FRG AND U.S. REPS INDICATED THEIR AUTHORITIES WERE SOMETHING LESS THAN ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT A FORMAL STUDY AS RECENT DEVELOPMENTS DID NOT APPEAR TO WARRANT ONE, AND WORK MIGHT OVERLAP WITH THAT OF NATO SOVIET AND EE EXPERTS. UK REP (MARGETSON) THOUGHT THAT IF TIME NOT PROPITIOUS FOR BALKAN STUDY, IT WAS NEVERTHELESS IMPORTANT TO FOSTER ALLIANCE CONSULTATIONS ON MATTERS OCCURRING IN AREAS OUTSIDE NATO TREATY COVERAGE. RESPONDING TO SUGGESTIONS THAT PERHAPS POLADS OUGHT TO AWAIT RESULTS OF MEETING OF NATO CONFIDENTIAL

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REGIONAL EXPERTS, AND PERHAPS SEEK THEIR ADVICE ON TOPICS THAT DESERVED MORE INTENSIVE STUDY, U.S. REP (LEDOGAR) MADE TWO POINTS: A) IT IS IMPORTANT TO KEEP IN MIND THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN ON THE ONE HAND REGIONAL EXPERTS' CONSIDERATION OF A

TOPIC WHERE THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS IS THE OBJECTIVE WITH NO REQUIREMENT TO HARMONIZE THOSE VIEWS, AND ON THE OTHER HAND A POLADS STUDY CONDUCTED UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM CAPITALS WHERE THE PRODUCT AND NOT THE NEGOTIATION TO ACHIEVE IT IS THE DESIRED END; AND
B) CONCERNING THE LINK BETWEEN THE POLADS AND THE REGIONAL EXPERTS--A TWO-WAY RELATIONSHIP WHICH THE U.S. THINKS SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED--IT IS JUST AS REASONABLE TO THINK OF THE NAC AND POLADS CALLING ATTENTION OF REGIONAL EXPERTS TO WORLDWIDE DEVELOPMENTS WITH POTENTIAL IMPACT ON THE ALLIANCE (AND THEREFORE DESERVING OF EXPERTS' SPECIAL ATTENTION) AS IT IS TO THINK OF THE EXPERTS FLAGGING PARTICULAR EVENTS TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PERMANENT COMMITTEES.

2. A NUMBER OF POLADS SUGGESTED COMMITTEE MIGHT UPDATE ITS AUTUMN 1974 REPORT ON YUGOSLAVIA AND INCLUDE COMMENTS ON YUGOSLAVIA'S COMMUNIST NEIGHBORS. POLADS AGREED TO SOLICIT CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THEIR AUTHORITIES ON DEVELOPMENTS IN YUGOSLAVIA AND ITS NEIGHBORING COMMUNIST STATES. COMMITTEE WILL DELAY DECISION ON WHETHER TO UNDERTAKE STUDY BASED UPON THESE CONTRIBUTIONS UNTIL THEY ARE IN HAND AND IT IS POSSIBLE TO ASCERTAIN IF THERE IS ENOUGH MATERIAL AVAILABLE. FOR THE TIME BEING, THE MORE GENERAL STUDY OF THE COMMUNIST BALKANS IS IN SUSPENSE.

3. COMMENT: REQUEST DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE ON WHAT SORT OF STUDY, IF ANY, POLADS SHOULD UNDERTAKE AT THIS TIME. MISSION RECOGNIZES SOME OFFICES OF THE DEPARTMENT HAVE UNUSUALLY HEAVY CURRENT WORKLOAD AND U.S. CONTRIBUTION TO AGREED STUDY MAY NOT IMMEDIATELY BE AVAILABLE. ON THE OTHER HAND, AS MISSION HAS CONSISTENTLY TAKEN THE LEAD IN PRESSING FOR ALLIANCE CONSULTATION ON MATTERS OUTSIDE THE TRADITIONAL EAST-WEST ALLIANCE FOCUS, WE DO NOT WISH TO DISCOURAGE ALLIED INITIATIVES IN THIS DIRECTION MERELY ON THE BASIS THE U.S. CONTRIBUTIONS MAY NOT BE IMMEDIATELY FORTHCOMING.

4. REQUEST GUIDANCE.
BRUCE

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